



(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the Boost Communities Program to provide monthly payments to America’s consumers during the COVID–19 emergency to recover from the emergency, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TLAIB introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the Boost Communities Program to provide monthly payments to America’s consumers during the COVID–19 emergency to recover from the emergency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Automatic BOOST to  
5 Communities (ABC) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (1) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
4 the Boost Communities Program as set forth in sec-  
5 tion 3.

6 (2) INTERIM BOOST CARD.—The term “interim  
7 BOOST card” means a prepaid debit card issued  
8 pursuant to section 3.

9 (3) PAYMENT PERIOD.—The term “payment  
10 period” means the period—

11 (A) beginning on the first day of the first  
12 month beginning after the date of the enact-  
13 ment of this Act, and

14 (B) ending on the later of—

15 (i) 1 year after the termination of the  
16 emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by  
17 President under section 501(b) of the Rob-  
18 ert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
19 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b))  
20 with respect to the COVID–19 pandemic;  
21 or

22 (ii) 1 year after—

23 (I) the national unemployment  
24 rate (as determined by the Bureau of  
25 Labor Statistics) is within 2 percent-  
26 age points of the national unemploy-

1                   ment rate on the moving average of  
2                   December 2019 through February  
3                   2020; and

4                   (II) the 3-month average of the  
5                   national unemployment rate has de-  
6                   clined for two consecutive months.

7           (4) DIGITAL DOLLARS.—The term “digital dol-  
8           lars” means dollar balances consisting of digital  
9           ledger entries recorded as liabilities in the accounts  
10          of any Federal reserve bank and digital coins or cur-  
11          rency instruments issued by the United States  
12          Treasury as legal tender, and held as bearer instru-  
13          ments in any digital dollar cash wallet approved by  
14          the United States Treasury.

15          (5) DIGITAL DOLLAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—The  
16          term “digital dollar account wallet” means a digital  
17          dollar account, maintained by a Federal reserve  
18          bank on behalf of any person, for the purpose of  
19          holding digital dollar balances.

20          (6) DIGITAL DOLLAR CASH WALLETS.—The  
21          term “digital dollar cash wallet” means any software  
22          program, whose standards, specifications, and func-  
23          tions are authorized and regulated by the United  
24          States Treasury, which stores, sends, and receives  
25          digital coins or currency instruments issued by the

1 United States Treasury as legal tender, and which  
2 are considered bearer instruments in the possession  
3 of the individual or entity on whose behalf the wallet  
4 is managed and administered.

5 (7) AT-RISK POPULATIONS.—The term “at-risk  
6 population” means a population that is experiencing,  
7 or reasonably may be expected to experience, unique  
8 direct or indirect financial or personal hardship as  
9 a result of or during the Coronavirus crisis, includ-  
10 ing the elderly, homeless, physically disabled, and  
11 those in remote areas, as well as any other popu-  
12 lation as identified by the Secretary.

13 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
14 the Secretary of the Treasury.

15 **SEC. 3. BOOST COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
17 program to be known as the “Boost Communities Pro-  
18 gram”. Under the Program, the Secretary shall make pay-  
19 ments to eligible individuals for each month in the pay-  
20 ment period. Such payments shall consist of a general as-  
21 sistance component and a targeted supplemental assist-  
22 ance component.

23 (b) PAYMENTS.—For purposes of this section—

24 (1) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The amount of  
25 payments under the Program shall be—

1 (A) for general assistance—

2 (i) \$2,000 per month to each eligible  
3 individual thereafter during the payment  
4 period; and

5 (ii) \$1,000 per month to each eligible  
6 individual a year after the payment period;  
7 and

8 (B) for targeted supplemental assistance,  
9 such additional amounts and sums as deter-  
10 mined by the Secretary to be necessary and ap-  
11 propriate to meet the specific needs of eligible  
12 individuals who are members of at-risk popu-  
13 lations, as identified by the Secretary.

14 (2) METHODS OF PAYMENT.—

15 (A) DIRECT DEPOSIT.—As regards recipi-  
16 ents who have previously provided bank account  
17 information to the Secretary, the Secretary  
18 shall directly deposit Program payments into  
19 these accounts.

20 (B) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—In any case  
21 in which subparagraph (A) does not apply, the  
22 Secretary shall contract with banking institu-  
23 tions that includes minority deposit institutions,  
24 community development financial institutions,  
25 credit unions, national banking association, and

1 any licensed money transmitter as deemed nec-  
2 essary or appropriate by the Secretary to issue  
3 an interim BOOST card.

4 (3) INTERIM BOOST CARDS.—

5 (A) RULES RELATING TO INTERIM BOOST  
6 CARDS.—The interim BOOST card shall—

7 (i) have all the functionality and serv-  
8 ice levels currently available to certain re-  
9 cipients of public benefits through the  
10 Treasury Department's Direct Express  
11 program; and

12 (ii) not be subject to any fees or pen-  
13 alty charges, usage restrictions, or data  
14 collection practices other than those explic-  
15 itly authorized by this Act.

16 (B) AVAILABILITY OF FULL BALANCE.—

17 The full balance of the interim BOOST card  
18 shall be made available for immediate with-  
19 drawal into physical currency at any automated  
20 teller machine in the country, at any time, and  
21 not be subject to any usage or withdrawal fees.

22 (C) DISTRIBUTION.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
24 distribute interim BOOST cards using the  
25 Postal Service to all eligible individuals

1 with an active address on file with any  
2 government agency, and shall be delivered  
3 by certified mail wherever possible, using  
4 the fastest service available, with any asso-  
5 ciated costs to the Postal Service reim-  
6 bursed directly by the Treasury of the  
7 United States.

8 (ii) IN PERSON PICK-UP.—Any eligible  
9 individual who does not have an active ad-  
10 dress on file with any government agency,  
11 or who otherwise is not able to or does not  
12 receive a prepaid card pursuant to clause  
13 (i) may obtain an interim or replacement  
14 BOOST card through any card distribu-  
15 tion station set up under the Program, in-  
16 cluding through any bank (as defined in  
17 section 581 of the Internal Revenue Code  
18 of 1986), insured credit union (within the  
19 meaning of section 101(7) of the Federal  
20 Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752(7)) lo-  
21 cated in the United States, post office,  
22 United States diplomatic missions or any  
23 other Federal, State, or local government  
24 agency or private contracting entity, as de-

1                   terminated by the Secretary to be necessary  
2                   or appropriate.

3                   (iii) WEB BASED ACCESS.—The Sec-  
4                   retary shall establish a website for the pur-  
5                   poses of allowing eligible recipients to up-  
6                   date their current mailing address, and  
7                   providing account information to users, in-  
8                   cluding information pertaining to the ac-  
9                   count number, status of delivery and re-  
10                  ceipt of their allocated and funds, and the  
11                  amount of the funds still available on their  
12                  card and to obtain a check in the amount  
13                  of the funds in the account.

14                  (iv) TELEPHONE ACCESS.—The Sec-  
15                  retary shall establish a dedicated telephone  
16                  information and assistance number for the  
17                  purposes of allowing eligible recipients to  
18                  update their current mailing address, and  
19                  providing account or card information to  
20                  users, including information pertaining to  
21                  the status of delivery and receipt of their  
22                  allocated funds, and the amount of the  
23                  funds still available on their card.

24                  (v) AT-RISK OUTREACH.—The Sec-  
25                  retary shall establish a dedicated Emer-



1                   agency Responder Corps, and where nec-  
2                   essary or appropriate, as determined by  
3                   the Secretary, shall contract with existing  
4                   Federal, State, and local government agen-  
5                   cies and private entities, to perform out-  
6                   reach to at-risk populations, including the  
7                   elderly, homeless, physically disabled, or in  
8                   remote areas, to ensure that these popu-  
9                   lations receive their interim BOOST card  
10                  as well as to perform a general wellness  
11                  check in case of needed targeted supple-  
12                  mental assistance, which shall then be pro-  
13                  vided in such sums and amounts as deter-  
14                  mined to be necessary and appropriate by  
15                  the Secretary via any payments mechanism  
16                  otherwise authorized by this Act and  
17                  deemed appropriate for the circumstances  
18                  by the Secretary.

19                  (4) REGULATORY TREATMENT OF PAYMENT.—  
20                  The Secretary shall apply the “XX” code specified  
21                  in section 212.3 of title 31, Code of Federal Regula-  
22                  tions, to designate all Program payments as benefit  
23                  payments. The Secretary shall further issue such  
24                  rules or guidance as needed to protect Program pay-  
25                  ments from garnishment. In addition, the Secretary

1       shall issue such rules or guidance as needed to en-  
2       sure that any funds distributed through the Pro-  
3       gram do not render recipients ineligible for any  
4       other Federal, State, or local benefits or income that  
5       they would otherwise have been entitled to receive in  
6       the absence of the Program, including excluding any  
7       general assistance or targeted supplemental assist-  
8       ance received via the Program from calculation of  
9       reportable annual income for the purpose of calcu-  
10      lating eligibility for benefits subject to an income-  
11      cap threshold.

12      (c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible indi-  
14      vidual” means—

15           (A) any citizen or resident of the United  
16      States means a citizen or resident (as such  
17      terms are used in section 7701(a)(30)(A) of the  
18      Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the United  
19      States; and

20           (B) any nonresident alien (as defined in  
21      section 7701(b)(1)(B) of such Code) who has  
22      been in the United States for more than the 3-  
23      month period beginning on December 13, 2019.

24           (2) UNITED STATES.—The term “United  
25      States” includes the 50 States, the District of Co-

1 lumbia, and the possessions of the United States, in-  
2 corporated territories and citizens abroad.

3 (d) RULES RELATING TO PROGRAM.—

4 (1) COORDINATION.—To ensure that the Pro-  
5 gram is as universal and comprehensive as possible,  
6 the Secretary shall develop a list of eligible individ-  
7 uals through coordination with the Internal Revenue  
8 Service, the Social Security Administration, the Fed-  
9 eral Election Commission, and every other relevant  
10 Federal, State, and local government agency, includ-  
11 ing State Departments of Motor Vehicles. Any ex-  
12 penses incurred by any entity as a result of compli-  
13 ance with the gathering of this information and con-  
14 struction of this database shall be reimbursed di-  
15 rectly by the United States Treasury.

16 (2) DATABASE OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary  
17 shall establish a database of recipients, identified by  
18 name and, where available, employer identification  
19 number, individual tax identification number, stu-  
20 dent identification, or swear in an affidavit where  
21 you are ineligible for a social security number and  
22 unable to submit satisfactory proof that your pres-  
23 ence in the United States is authorized by Federal  
24 law. This affidavit will not be treated as public  
25 record and use solely for the purposes of this pro-

1       gram. The database established under this para-  
2       graph shall not be shared with any other Federal,  
3       State, or local agency, other entity, or Immigration  
4       Customs Enforcement and related enforcement  
5       agencies, or used for any purpose other than to ad-  
6       minister the program, provided that the Secretary  
7       may share identifying information with the Board of  
8       Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the  
9       United States Postal Office for the purpose of devel-  
10      oping banking accounts maintained at the Federal  
11      Reserve Board or for the purposes of maintain ac-  
12      counts at the United State Postal Office, upon re-  
13      ceipt of written consent of recipients for such infor-  
14      mation to be shared for this purpose.

15      (e) PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM.—Not later than  
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
17 establish an awareness program to inform the public of  
18 the availability of the existence of the Program and eligi-  
19 bility of recipients to receive general and targeted supple-  
20 mental assistance, as well as the various payment and dis-  
21 tribution options available to receive this assistance. The  
22 Secretary shall use appropriate means of communication  
23 to carry out the provisions of this section.

24      (f) FUNDING.—

1           (1) DIRECTIVE TO MINT AND ISSUE PLATINUM  
2       COINS.—The Secretary shall, under section 5112(k)  
3       of title 31, United States Code, mint and issue two  
4       \$1 trillion platinum coins and shall further mint and  
5       issue any additional \$1 trillion coins on an as-needed  
6       basis to cover any direct and indirect expenses re-  
7       lated to the Program for the duration of the pro-  
8       gram.

9           (2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE GENERAL  
10      FUND.—The Secretary shall direct the United States  
11      Mint to sweep all funds received from the sale of the  
12      coins under paragraph (2) into the general fund of  
13      the Treasury.

14      (g) PRESERVING FEDERAL RESERVE INDEPEND-  
15      ENCE AND EFFICACY OF MONETARY POLICY.—To ensure  
16      that the Program does not unintentionally or unduly inter-  
17      fere with or limit the efficacy of the Federal Reserve Sys-  
18      tem in achieving its statutory obligations, including in par-  
19      ticular with respect to implementation of its monetary pol-  
20      icy objectives, the Board of Governors of the Federal Re-  
21      serve shall be authorized:

22           (1) SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING SECURITIES.—  
23      To issue as Federal reserve notes under section  
24      248(d) of title 12, United States Code, digital secu-  
25      rities, including bills, notes, and bonds, of whatever

1 maturity, denomination, and yield, as is deemed ap-  
2 propriate and necessary by the Board of Governors  
3 to achieve its statutory objectives under the Federal  
4 Reserve Act, in quantities up to an amount equiva-  
5 lent to the total face value of all platinum coins  
6 issued by the United States Treasury and held as  
7 assets by the Federal Reserve System. Notes issued  
8 under this paragraph shall be sold on the open mar-  
9 ket in a manner similar to the sale of Treasury secu-  
10 rities, and, like Federal reserve notes, shall be con-  
11 sidered direct obligations of the United States under  
12 section 8 of title 18, United States Code, but shall  
13 be recorded for accounting purposes as direct liabil-  
14 ities of the Federal Reserve System, and accordingly  
15 shall not be included in calculations of public debt  
16 subject to limit under section 3101 of title 31,  
17 United States Code.

18 (2) ESTABLISH A DEDICATED SPECIAL TREAS-  
19 URY MONETARY FINANCING ACCOUNT.—The Federal  
20 Reserve Bank of New York shall establish an ac-  
21 count titled the “Special Treasury Monetary Financ-  
22 ing Account”, in which shall be recorded any ex-  
23 penses associated with payment of interest on settle-  
24 ment balances or Federal reserve securities up to a  
25 total principal amount equivalent to the total prin-

1        cipal value of all platinum coins issued by the  
2        United States Treasury and held as assets by the  
3        Federal Reserve System, plus any additional liabil-  
4        ities incurred as a result of prior interest payments  
5        made on liabilities issued against coin assets pur-  
6        chased under the Program. Any ongoing losses in-  
7        curred by this account shall be recorded as a nega-  
8        tive liability, and shall be maintained separately  
9        from the rest of the balance sheet of both the Fed-  
10       eral Reserve Bank of New York and the Federal Re-  
11       serve System, so as not to reduce or impact the cal-  
12       culation of total income or revenue generated by the  
13       Federal Reserve System, or otherwise reduce the  
14       total amount of net operating profits to be made  
15       available for remittance to the Treasury on an ongo-  
16       ing basis.

17       (h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary and the Board of  
18       Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall issue such  
19       regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or ap-  
20       propriate to carry out this section.

21       (i) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISH-  
22       MENT OF FEDACCOUNTS AND TREASURY-ADMINISTERED  
23       ECASH WALLETS.—

24                (1) DIGITAL DOLLAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—

1           (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—It is a sense of  
2 Congress that at the end of the payment period,  
3 the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve  
4 System shall develop and administer a system  
5 of Digital Dollar Account Wallets, which shall  
6 be branded as “FedAccounts”, and made avail-  
7 able to all United States citizens, United States  
8 residents, and domestically domiciled busi-  
9 nesses, along with associated services, including  
10 debit cards, online account access, automatic  
11 bill-pay, mobile banking, and automatic teller  
12 machines maintained in conjunction with the  
13 United States Postal Services at its physical lo-  
14 cations.

15           (B) BOOST PAYMENTS VIA DIGITAL DOL-  
16 LAR ACCOUNT WALLETS.—No later than Janu-  
17 ary 1, 2021, the Secretary shall offer all recipi-  
18 ents of BOOST payments the option to receive  
19 their payments in digital dollar wallets. BOOST  
20 recipients receiving their payments through in-  
21 terim BOOST cards shall instead receive a Fed-  
22 eral Reserve Account for debit cards and be  
23 given the option to sign up online for fully oper-  
24 ational digital dollar account wallets.



1 (C) AUTHORIZATION FOR EACH FEDERAL  
2 RESERVE BANK TO MAINTAIN DIGITAL AC-  
3 COUNT.—Subject to such restrictions, limita-  
4 tions, and regulations as may be imposed by the  
5 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Sys-  
6 tem, each Federal reserve bank may maintain  
7 digital dollar account wallets.

8 (D) Digital dollar account wallets shall not  
9 be subject to any account fees, minimum bal-  
10 ances, or maximum balances, and shall not be  
11 closed or restricted on the basis of profitability;

12 (E) Digital dollar account wallets shall  
13 partner with Post Office branches to ensure ac-  
14 cess and availability to application and account  
15 services for all United States citizens and  
16 United States residents and domestically domi-  
17 ciled businesses in areas where access to phys-  
18 ical member bank branches is limited, in low- or  
19 moderate-income geographies; designated dis-  
20 aster areas; distressed or underserved non-met-  
21 ropolitan middle-income geographies as des-  
22 ignated by the Federal Financial Institutions  
23 Examination Council, Federal Reserve banks;

24 (F) Digital dollar account wallets shall  
25 provide account holders with reasonable protec-

1           tion against losses caused by fraud or security  
2           breaches but shall not include overdraft cov-  
3           erage; and

4           (G) Digital dollar account wallets shall  
5           comply with the relevant portions of the Bank  
6           Secrecy Act in establishing and maintaining  
7           digital dollar account wallets and shall impose  
8           privacy obligations on providers under the Pri-  
9           vacy Act of 1974 that mirror those applicable  
10          to Federal tax returns under sections 6103,  
11          7213(a)(1), 7213A, and 7431 of the Internal  
12          Revenue Code of 1986.

13          (2) TERMS OF DOLLAR CASH WALLET SYS-  
14          TEM.—At the end of the payment period, the Treas-  
15          ury shall develop and administer a system of Digital  
16          Dollar Cash Wallets, which shall be branded as  
17          “eCash Wallets” and made available to any eligible  
18          individual to store, send, and receive digital coins or  
19          other digital currency instruments issued by the  
20          United States Treasury as legal tender.

21          (3) ADDITIONAL SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is  
22          the additional sense of Congress that—

23                 (A) digital dollar cash wallet hosting serv-  
24                 ices shall be offered directly by the Treasury, in  
25                 coordination with the Federal Reserve and li-

1 censed depository and money transmitter enti-  
2 ties, to promote integration with and interoper-  
3 ability between Digital Dollar Cash Wallets and  
4 Digital Dollar Account Wallets managed by the  
5 Federal Reserve, and shall not be subject to any  
6 associated administrative fees or minimum or  
7 maximum balances, and shall not be closed on  
8 the basis of profitability considerations;

9 (B) digital dollar cash wallets shall also be  
10 capable of being self-hosted on widely available,  
11 inexpensive digital devices, including mobile  
12 phones, with any necessary software or hard-  
13 ware licensed under an appropriate open source  
14 license; and

15 (C) a Digital Financial Privacy Board  
16 shall be—

17 (i) established by the Secretary to  
18 oversee, monitor, and report on the design  
19 and implementation of the Digital Dollar  
20 Cash Wallet System;

21 (ii) maintained thereafter to provide  
22 ongoing oversight over its administration;  
23 and

24 (iii) designed in such a way as to rep-  
25 licate the privacy and anonymity-respecting

1 features of physical currency transactions  
2 as closely as possible, including prohibition  
3 of surveillance or censorship-enabling back-  
4 door features.

5 (4) REGULATION.—The Board of Governors of  
6 the Federal Reserve System shall promulgate regula-  
7 tions carrying out this section.

8 **SEC. 4. ADDRESSING IMPACT ON INEQUALITY.**

9 After the termination of the emergency declared on  
10 March 13, 2020, by President under section 501(b) of the  
11 Robert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
12 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)) with respect to the COVID–  
13 19 pandemic, the Secretary shall establish an independent  
14 Commission to—

15 (1) investigate and ascertain the short-term and  
16 long-term impact of emergency relief measures, in-  
17 cluding those included in this Act, on overall levels  
18 and rates of increase of income and wealth inequal-  
19 ity in the United States; and

20 (2) identify and propose a comprehensive set of  
21 legislative and policy responses to address such im-  
22 pacts, including progressive tax reform as well as the  
23 enactment of new Federal programs and emergency  
24 response practices to preemptively prevent such out-

- 1 comes from occurring in the event of future similar
- 2 crises or emergencies.